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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights
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Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution

A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 26 November 2012, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. The Committee was informed of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/67/L.70).

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of paragraph 21 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;



(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

III. Relationship of the proposed requests to the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013

3. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, and subprogramme 4, Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, of programme 19, Human rights, of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/65/6/Rev.1).

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. In his report to the General Assembly (A/67/333), the Secretary-General outlined his continued broad-based consultations with the authorities and key stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, as well as key Member States with regard to implementation of the good offices mandate.

5. The Secretary-General recognizes that the new civilian Government headed by President Thein Sein has undertaken dramatic and significant reform measures to consolidate democracy, enacting new laws in active sessions of the national parliament and regional assemblies; reaching out to various ethnic groups to promote peace and national reconciliation; releasing significant numbers of political prisoners; and taking measures to carry out economic reforms aimed at transforming the largely centralized economy into an increasingly market-oriented one that is open to foreign investment and trade. In the past year, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General visited Myanmar three times at the invitation of the Government: in November 2011, following the new steps taken in the implementation of reforms, national dialogue and reconciliation; in February 2012, ahead of the April 2012 by-elections; and in June 2012 during the early days of the first outbreak of communal violence in Rakhine State. In addition, the Special Adviser also accompanied the Secretary-General during his most recent visit to Myanmar in April/May 2012 and made a further visit to the country in September 2012.

6. The complex and evolving situation in Myanmar has required the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser to continue to provide their good offices by engaging comprehensively with the Myanmar authorities and other relevant stakeholders. Engagement in the political, humanitarian, and socioeconomic fields was equally important to advancing the objectives of the good offices mandate. The Special Adviser therefore sought to achieve progress in five areas: (a) the release of political prisoners; (b) the pursuit of an inclusive dialogue between the Government and all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process, including those who are represented in the parliament as well as those who are not; (c) the creation of conditions conducive to an inclusive and credible political and electoral process; (d) measures to improve socioeconomic conditions by strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and Myanmar; and (e) a more regular pattern of

engagement and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations through the good offices process.

7. Notwithstanding the positive developments in the country, which have created an opportunity for a calibrated approach in the good offices process, Myanmar continues to face a number of political, human rights, development and humanitarian problems. Of particular concern are the second outbreak of communal violence in Rakhine State and the delay in reaching a ceasefire in the conflict area of Kachin State. The continued detention of the remaining political prisoners remains of concern to the United Nations and the international community.

8. The General Assembly's support for the existing capacity of the Secretary-General's good offices will therefore remain important in order to help the Government and other stakeholders to maximize the opportunities for greater democratization and national reconciliation through an inclusive political process. Member States continue to have a shared stake in the success of the current process to result in a credible transition that can contribute to the country's stability and development. The reform agenda and transition process offers a chance for a better understanding between Myanmar and the international community, and provides an opportunity for greater cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations in the interest of the people of Myanmar.

9. Moving forward, the Secretary-General will continue to work with all concerned to support the efforts of the Government and the people of Myanmar towards national reconciliation, the transition to democracy and full respect for human rights, as the necessary foundation for long-term stability and prosperity. In the light of the increasing activities and areas of engagement of the United Nations in Myanmar, including the new United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country programme, which was submitted to the UNDP Executive Board last September, the preparation of the 2014 census and peacebuilding activities in border areas, the Office of the Special Adviser continues to chair an inter-agency and interdepartmental working group on Myanmar at Headquarters, at the working and senior levels, to facilitate information-sharing and coordination, in view of the importance of enhancing United Nations system-wide coherence.

10. Consistent with the requests contained in operative paragraph 21 (a) and (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, the efforts of the Secretary-General would continue in 2013 to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance in that regard. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Adviser and his team, in close coordination with the Department of Political Affairs at Headquarters. The progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

V. Estimated resource requirements

11. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Adviser for Myanmar, as requested in

paragraph 21 of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2013, amount to \$1,397,800 net (\$1,519,900 gross).

12. Those resources would cover the salaries of the Special Adviser (Under-Secretary-General) and four staff (2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)); the official travel of the Special Adviser to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of consultants; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Other substantive and administrative support to the Special Adviser would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

13. The above requirements have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/67/346/Add.1), and would be part of the 2013 appropriation for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

14. With regard to the request contained in the latter part of paragraph 21 (b), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the related requirements are considered of a perennial nature. As such, a provision of an estimated \$73,600 per annum to implement the activities of the Special Rapporteur has been made, under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

15. At this juncture, no additional resources are requested for section 24, Human rights, beyond those reflected above.

VI. Summary

16. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.49/Rev.1, additional requirements amounting to \$1,397,800 net (\$1,519,900 gross) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.

17. These requirements would be part of the 2013 appropriation for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Approval for these requirements is being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/67/346/Add.1), currently before the Assembly for consideration during the main part of its sixty-seventh session.